

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01

/150 W

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R 291930Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9103

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 1755

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GY

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION PARTY RE-AFFIRMS BOYCOTT OF GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

REF: GEORGETOWN 1093

1. IN NOVEMBER 28 PRESS RELEASE, OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) RE-AFFIRMED BOYCOTT OF ITS FOURTEEN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEATS INITIATED IN JULY (REFTEL). PPP STATED NON-PARTICIPATION BASED UPON RIGGING OF 1973 ELECTION BY RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) AND UPON "EMASCULATION" OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BY PNC. PRESS RELEASE WENT ON TO ATTACK PNC ON ISSUES OF UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AND COMPULSORY NATIONAL SERVICE.

2. COMMENT: RE-AFFIRMING OF PPP BOYCOTT ENDS SPECULATION THAT PPP LEADER CHEDDI JAGAN WOULD ALTER POLICY FOLLOWING HIS RETURN NOVEMBER 21 FROM ATTENDANCE AT WORLD PEACE CONGRESS IN MOSCOW AND TRADE UNION CONGRESS IN HAVANA. IT NOW APPEARS BOYCOTT WILL CONTINUE INDEFINITELY. DECISION TO CONTINUE
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BOYCOTT PROBABLY REFLECTS PPP DESIRE TO DENY PNC GOVT LEGITIMACY

AS WELL AS REALIZATION THAT PARTICIPATION IN PNC CONTROLLED
ASSEMBLY WOULD PROVE FRUSTRATING.

3. MAJOR DISADVANTAGE OF BOYCOTT FOR PPP IS LOSS OF PARLIA-
MENTARY FORUM TO AIR PARTY VIEWS AND CRITICISMS. THIS MAY BE
INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT AT TIME WHEN SHORTAGE OF GOVT CONTROLLED
NEWSPRINT HAS REDUCED PPP PAPER FROM SIX TO TWO WEEKLY EDITIONS.
HOWEVER, SUPPORT FOR JAGAN, WHICH THOUGH DECLINING, IS STILL
SIGNIFICANT IN EAST INDIAN COMMUNITY, IS RACIAL AND EMOTIONAL
AND IS NOT DEPENDENT UPON PARLIAMENTARY EXPOSURE. FURTHER,
AS LONG AS PNC GOVT GIVES PPP ISSUES TO EXPLOIT SUCH AS
COMPULSORY NATIONAL SERVICE, WHICH RUNS COUNTER TO TRADITIONALLY
CLOSE EAST INDIAN FAMILY STRUCTURE, PPP WILL CONTINUE TO FIND
SUPPORT REGARDLESS OF POSITION IN ASSEMBLY. KING

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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